The Drug Habit Growing.

Increased Use of Morphine and Cocaine in This City in the Last Two Years.

Talks with some of the leading physicians and druggists of New York indicate that the drug habit, which of late has been causing a good deal of discussion on both sides of the Atlantic, has attained a tremendous growth in this city.

Exact statistics are hard to get at. But specialists who are constantly coming into contact with persons addicted to the excessive use of morphine, cocaine and other drugs agree that the demand for these drugs has doubled in less than five years. No part of the city, they add, is free from their use. Moreover, they say that the drug habit is quite as firmly established among women as among men—perhaps even more so.

The attention of a physician in the psychopathic ward at Bellevue Hospital was directed one day last week to a paragraph in a London paper which stated that a prisoner, who was arrested in an inebriates' home on a charge of forgery, confessed to having reached the pitch of taking 120 grains of cocaine a day. The statement did not seem to surprise the physician. When asked if it was possible to take so great a quantity of the drug, he replied:

"Yes, that is entirely possible. Many persons who are going about attending to ordinary vocations have reached the point of taking forty-five or fifty grains a day. After they pass that mark, though, the descent to an insane asylum is usually rapid.

"Such extreme cases, though, are rare. Perhaps in the insane ward here we treat about eight or nine of them a year, men and women who have become crazy from the use of drugs.

"I want you to look at the lady who is coming this way," the doctor broke off to say in a lower voice.

The woman in question was being shown to the door by a nurse whom she had come to see. She was large, stout, prosperous looking. Her greeting of the physician was effusive. His response was less so.

An exchange of amenities disclosed the fact that the woman had been spending the summer at a watering place and was "very well indeed."

When the door closed behind her the doctor and nurse exchanged glances.

"What do you think?" asked the doctor tentatively.

"I think we shall see her again before long," replied the nurse.

"That woman," the doctor explained, "was brought here in a frenzy last winter, the result of taking too much cocaine. Afterward, by my advice, she went to an institution for treatment, and came out early last summer apparently cured."

"Well, why does the nurse think she will be back here before long? Evidently she is perfectly well."

The doctor shook his head.

"She is taking cocaine again. We know it by her eyes.

"Many a society woman," he continued, "first tries the drug on special occasions, such as when giving a big dinner or other entertainment, for no other reason than that it will give, not only an added lustre to her eyes, but also a sparkle and brilliancy to her conversation quite out of the ordinary. For a couple of hours or so after she is sure to be at her best—in fact, away beyond her normal best.

"The first effects of the drug are delightful. Pain of any kind, either mental or physical, vanishes. A sensation of vigor and buoyancy pervades the body.

"A corresponding depression is bound to follow, but in the case of beginners, especially women, they simply say and think they have the dumps, and forthwith go to bed and sleep them off."

An interesting statement was made by a physician connected with the alcoholic ward at Bellevue. Said he:

"There has been a great increase during the last year or so in the number of physicians and nurses who have fallen into the cocaine habit. I am treating four doctors here now."

"How does that happen?"

"Sometimes because the victim wants to experiment with the different drugs, and again because at some particular and important juncture which finds him worn out physically he has recourse to the most convenient artificial stimulant at hand.

"Oh, yes, any one can be cured of the habit, provided he has any recuperative force and will power left—that is he can be cured of the craving for drugs and there will be no relapse unless he voluntarily takes a dose again. After that he is practically unable to stop until rounded up again in an institution.

"In my opinion the presence of so many quack tonics in the market, most of which contain a preparation of cocaine, has a lot to do with the growth of the drug habit."

An uptown physician whose practice is among a fashionable class admitted that although in his own practice he came in contact with comparatively few victims of the drug habit, at the same time he knew that the use of certain drugs was much on the increase, especially among women.

"The main reason for this," he said, "is not, as some people seem to think, that human nature is degenerating. The fact is, certain opiates are of quite recent discovery. Cocaine, for instance, is very young indeed.

"In the old days opiates were not in general use, simply because they were not to be had. For instance, when I first began to practise the Dovers powder, as we called it, which contained a certain proportion of opium, was about the most powerful remedy of its kind prescribed by the family physician.

"Later on, morphine, which is an alkaloid of four times the strength of opium, came along, and then cocaine, now the most popular drug of all, maybe, was discovered quite by accident.

"The immediate effects of cocaine are less hypnotic than those of morphine; they are unmistakably stimulating in fact. In these days women suffering with incipient hay fever or asthma are not willing to put up with the old fashioned treatment for those ailments—which, by the way, in the long run is about the best there is. They fly to the new snuffs and stuffs for inhaling, all of which include opium and the effect of which is only temporary.

"They will have them. They want relief at once at any cost. The ultimate cost is sometimes, oftentimes, the drug habit."

It was a physician connected with a sanitarium largely patronized by sufferers from the drug habit that was the most outspoken when asked to give as his opinion as to whether or not there had been any very perceptible increase in the drug habit in the last few years.

"Certainly there has," said he. "The habit has increased tremendously."

"In what part of the city does it flourish most?"

"It is no respecter of sections. It flourishes everywhere."

"Who indulges in it?"

"Everybody."

"Where do they get the stuff?"

"Anywhere."

"What?"

"Anywhere."

The doctor fairly hurled these answers out and without the slightest attempt to beat around the bush.

"But the law says no druggist may sell morphine except on a doctor's prescription," persuaded a questioner.

For answer the doctor closed one eye.

"More and more narcotics are sold every year," he went on, "and there is no sign of a decrease at present. In my opinion, women are no more addicted to the habit than men."

"What is the reason?"

"Why, the strenuous life people live in these days. They can't keep it up without recourse to stimulants.

"The beginning of the drug habit is very simple, and it is only fair to say that very few persons ever begin it voluntarily and with their eyes open. Here, to illustrate, is the way dozens of women who have come under my observation have started:

"One calls perhaps on another whom she finds with a headache and complaining of feeling all used up. Or she may be tormented with neuralgia. Says the caller: " 'Now do take one of these powders,' or pellets, as the case may be, 'that I have been taking. They have done me a world of good. I wouldn't be without them for anything.'

"The sufferer takes the powder, which is probably morphine, and it acts like a charm. In a day or two there may be a recurrence of the bad symptoms, and she hastens to her friend for some more of the medicine, and continues to go until she can get some on her own account.

"In the first place, the morphine may have been prescribed by a physician with good cause, or without special justification; for I am sorry to say there are unscrupulous physicians who, in order to satisfy an impatient patient or because they are pressed for time themselves, will prescribe the quickest antidote to pain they can think of, thus earning the immediate gratitude of the patient.

"Then the prescription was doubtless renewed without the physician's knowledge, although the law forbids a druggist to renew prescriptions of poisonous drugs without a written indorsement from a physician.

"In place of pellets or powders a hypodermic needle perhaps is the promoting cause. In any case woman number two is soon as enthusiastic in her use of the drug as her friend and in turn she is pretty sure to pass the cure along to friend number three. Thus an endless chain of drug takers is established some links of which are apt to be pretty weak and eventually drop out into a sanitarium. There are thousands of cases, however, that no one ever knows anything about except the physicians.

"The eagerness with which some women take to smoking is another indication of their appetite for drugs. From smoking to cocaine is sometimes a short step.

"In the case of men it is the brain workers who yield more readily to the dope habit than others. Writers are no exception.

"I have known more than one case in which a young man called upon to get up a brilliant article—or an article he wanted to make brilliant—in a hurry and perhaps at a time when he was pretty well fagged out, has resorted to a mild dose of cocaine. Afterward he just reeled off the sentences."

"How about the next day?"

"There was a pretty bad knock-out, I can tell you. He was certain to be nerveless and depressed unless indeed he took more of the stuff, but few writers will take such risks at the start.

"Where do I think the largest quantity of dope is bought? Well perhaps the druggists in the Tenderloin do as good a business as any."

It is possible the doctor is mistaken on this point. At any rate the druggists in that locality tell a different story, and it is learned from authoritative sources that the biggest retailers of forbidden drugs live in out of the way localities.

At one of the big drug stores on upper Broadway the head prescription clerk protested that instead of an increase in the sales of morphine and cocaine in the last two years or so, in that store, there had been a falling off.

"It is a well-known fact," he remarked in explanation, "that the best physicians—such for instance as send their patients here—include very few poisonous drugs in their prescriptions. It is not once a month that I fill one calling for morphine or cocaine.

"On the other hand would-be buyers on the quiet of either drug know better than to come here. They patronize the places where a dollar counts for more.

"The law says that it is a misdemeanor to sell poisons without a prescription, and most of the reputable druggists refuse to go against the law to please anybody.

"It is all nonsense to say that cocaine can be bought anywhere, if the person only knows how to go about it. I know it cannot be bought here."

Within a short block of this store is another whose proprietor has been in business for many years and is well informed on the drug question. He was exceedingly frank in his statements.

At the outset he acknowledged that the present consumption of morphine and cocaine was at least double what it was five years ago.

"Every druggist knows that," he declared.

When the doctor's assertion that these drugs could be purchased anywhere was quoted to him he said, with a smile:

"Well, if that doctor will qualify his statement—make it almost anywhere—he will hit it about right.

"A regular customer can get almost anything he wants at his own druggist's, get what a stranger cannot buy. As a rule strangers don't go to the large, well known stores at all for prohibited drugs. They seek out the small shops.

"For instance, there is a small Sixth avenue drug store not far from here, tucked away in the middle of a block, that for years has done a lively business in morphine and cocaine. There is another lower down on the East Side that sells little else, I am told. The proprietor has made a fortune.

"Perhaps you don't know that in advanced cases of the cocaine habit if a thousand dollars, or a hundred thousand stood between the victim of the habit and the dose wanted, and he had the money to put up, he would part with it without a minute's hesitation."

"How is it that the proprietors of those stores are not caught selling those poisons?"

"Because they go by another name there. A customer doesn't walk in and demand morphine. He inquires for something quite different. And the regular comers don't even have to give it any name at all. A nod will do.

"Druggists who are in the habit of selling the stuff can tell a prospective buyer, they say, almost before he gets inside the door. No, I really don't know how they do it.

"Let me tell you another fact that is not generally known. It is easier to buy an ounce of cocaine than one grain. Try it some time. Go to a wholesale house, and ten chances to one any one can make a deal without being asked a question, the seller taking it for granted the poison is to be sold again at retail.

"It is the same with all poisons. I can't sell five cents' worth of paris green over my counter without a prescription, yet anybody may go to a wholesale place and buy a pound without being asked whether it is to be used for sprinkling potato bugs or poisoning the neighborhood. Queer, isn't it?

"In my opinion the only way to stop the indiscriminate retailing of poisonous drugs is for the Government to buy them up and sell only to physicians with the proviso that they themselves shall deal the drugs out to patients. Even then, perhaps, there might be ways of reaching some doctors.

"It will be news to some people to know that colored people are taking wonderfully to the cocaine and morphine habit and that in certain parts of the city they are among the best customers for the drugs. Almost without exception these negroes associate much with white people.

"Of one thing I am certain, there will be no dropping off in the sale of cocaine for some time to come, for the reason that for every person cured of the habit there are two or three new converts."

EARNINGS OF THE ACTORS.

WOMEN THE BIGGEST MONEY MAKERS AMONG THE STARS.

Enormous Incomes Credited to Maude Adams and Mrs. Leslie Carter—Viola Allen's Lucky Stroke—Pay of a Good Looking Young Man—Manager Actors.

"By Jove!" said the young man as they left the theatre, "to think that fellow gets $250 a week for doing that! Here I work for seven hours a day and have been at it for ten years, and I don't make that much in a month. It's the greatest snap in the world to be an actor. Think of it—$250 a week!"

This young man voiced the general opinion of persons who are not familiar with the conditions under which actors work. Those who know what they earn and what they have to do to earn it do not deny that they are as a body greatly overpaid; but they also take into consideration facts which the general public is very likely to overlook.

Thus the ordinary actor is not employed for more than thirty-five weeks in the year, and in many cases the period is shorter. Indeed, there are few actors who stand so high in their professions that they can compel managers to engage them absolutely for a whole season. They are always, unless they are stars, subject to the two weeks notice clause.

That means that in case of the failure of a play the company can be dismissed by giving the members two weeks notice, or paying salaries for that time. This provision is, of course, necessary for theatrical managers who might be ruined by being compelled to carry an expensive company over the country for a whole season when the business was poor.

Then the demand for certain kinds of actors is very great. Young men of good presence to play leading rôles are not numerous, nor are there enough women with notable charm of manner and personality to supply the immense demand that has grown up during recent years for actresses.

Only the popular players receive the large salaries that reward the lucky members of the profession. The great rank and file must live with the greatest prudence to get along at all on what they are able to earn.

The women stars are the most profitable to-day, and by that is meant the women who are really stars in the old fashioned sense of the word. Women like Maude Adams, Mrs. Carter, Minnie Fiske, Annie Russell, Julia Marlowe, Mrs. Langtry, Blanche Bates and Henrietta Crosman are sure of large profits, whatever their plays may be. One year their earnings may be $15,000 and the next twice that sum; but they are in any case beyond the chance of having their careers suddenly ended because their plays fail.

The two most popular actresses in this country are Maude Adams and Mrs. Leslie Carter, and their earnings during the past five years have been enormous. Mrs. Carter is under salary to David Belasco, just as Maude Adams is to Charles Frohman, and in addition to their fixed salaries, they receive a percentage.

Viola Allen, when she became a star with the Liebler company was not looked upon by other managers as an especially promising proposition. She had a larger degree of confidence in herself than the managers had in her, for by her contract with the Lieblers, she arranged for a salary of only $100 a week; but she got a very large percentage of the profits.

Every play she appeared in was a success and out of "The Christian" alone she earned more than $150,000. "In the Palace of the King," "The Eternal City" and "The Hunchback" were all immensely profitable for her. Now she is so well established that she can act whatever she wants to, and in her revival of "Twelfth Night" this year she is to finance her own company and be her own manager.

Mrs. Carter, unlike Miss Allen, does not take a large percentage and a small salary. She now gets from David Belasco $1,400 a week and a share of the profits—naturally no large share, as her manager takes on himself the financial burden of the performances in which she appears. The Carter plays have been so successful during the past four seasons that even a small share of the profits represents a large weekly income.

Maude Adams has probably never cleared less than $50,000 a year since her first season in "The Little Minister." By her contract with Charles Frohman she gets a fixed salary of $500 a week and about 50 per cent. of the profits. And any other manager would be glad to take the contract off Mr. Frohman's hands.

Miss Adams has an enormous following throughout the country, and even in a little play like "Quality Street," which is an inexpensive production, her business at the Knickerbocker Theatre in this city kept up to an average of $19,000 a week for five weeks. Mrs. Carter usually has the assistance of an elaborate production.

Annie Russell, another of Charles Frohman's stars, has a salary of $500 a week and a small share in the profits. Ethel Barrymore, who, during her first years as a star acted for Mr. Frohman for only $80 a week, now has a salary of $300 and a small percentage. In these cases, Mr. Frohman, of course, takes all the risks, secures the plays and produces them, and the actress posing as the star of the company has only to draw her salary.

Julia Marlowe, Lily Langtry, Henrietta Crosman, Mrs. Fiske and Elsie de Wolfe are their own managers, putting up their own money and engaging some person to look after their business interests. Mrs. Langtry, for instance, pays her company, produces her play—that is to say, she buys scenery and costumes—and gives half her profits to the syndicate for booking her tour and running the business end of her enterprises. The managers supply her business staff, press agent, &c., which they can well afford to do, besides booking her tour.

Miss Marlowe, who is the producer of her own plays, is in partnership with Charles Dillingham, who has also the management of Maxine Elliott and Millie James, stars differing considerably in glory from Miss Marlowe. Mrs. Fiske selects her plays, hires her company, puts up whatever the necessary amount of money may be and like the other actresses mentioned, takes all the profits.

Henrietta Crosman, who follows the same arrangement, does not even have to hire a manager, since her husband acts for her. Elsie de Wolfe in her attempts to be a star is her own capitalist and takes all the profits.

Among the women who are not stars the compensation is almost as great as it is for those whose names are on the three-sheets, although they never under any circumstances get any share of the profits. Margaret Anglin is said to get the largest salary ever paid to a leading woman of the Empire Theatre, and that is $300 a week. Miss Anglin is soon to be a star, and it is doubtful if her earnings next year, when she is to begin her career, will be much larger for the first year anyhow.

Fay Davis, who has just made her first stellar appearance in "Lady Rose's Daughter," does not now receive as much as Miss Anglin, who still is in the rank of the leading women. Her contract is said to call for only $175 and a small percentage—the latter added to emphasize the splendors of stardom. Margaret Dale, who is now the leading actress in John Drew's company, a post very much in demand always, as Maude Adams made her reputation there, gets $90, while Ida Conquest, an actress of more experience, who once had that place before Miss Dale, receives when she appears in the Frohman companies $125 a week.

Jessie Busley is in receipt of a salary of $100 from Mr. Frohman, who has told her that she may never expect any more if she acts with him the rest of her life, but he has promised her employment always at that figure. Miss Busley accepted this offer as a kind of annuity and every year finds her with Mr. Frohman.

Hilda Spong got as leading woman of the Daly Theatre during her last year there $175 a week, but it is doubtful if she could command that salary now, as she most unwisely allowed herself to grow stout and matronly.

Bessie Tyree got for a short time $250 a week. It happened that she had the lease of the Madison Square Theatre, for which she had no possible use, as her play had been a complete failure. Kirke La Shelle wanted a theatre in which to give "The Earl of Pawtucket."

"You may have my theatre," Miss Tyree said, "but you must take me along with it. And I cost $250 a week."

Thus it happened that for several months Miss Tyree drew the large salary of $250. But half that sum is in excess of what she has customarily received.

Katherine Grey gets $125 for her participation in melodramatic plays, and, although she is so much better in sympathetic parts that do not require her to wear a sunbonnet, she receives the same reward. Rose Coghlan, although she has ceased to be a star, is able always to command $250 a week.

W. H. Crane, Nat Goodwin and E. H. Sothern are really their own managers although their tours are directed by some manager who gets a small percentage of the receipts. J. K. Hackett and Richard Mansfield are openly their own managers, and pay no percentages, but a salary, to the business managers that they hire.

William Faversham, Charles Richman and Robert Edeson receive weekly salaries of $300 and a percentage of the profits, and the management, of course, assumes all risk. John Drew has the same kind of arrangements with Charles Frohman, although his salary and percentage are, of course, much larger, and his earnings depend in a large measure on the quality of his play. When he has a good one his earnings may be very large, but when they are bad they are horrid.

Lawrance D'Orsay, who is the star of "The Earl of Pawtucket" if ever an actor was star of a play, had the usual experience of being a full fledged star of the most popular play in town at a salary of $75 a week. He was receiving that salary from Charles Frohman when Kirke La Shelle borrowed him for the part of the *Earl*.

Miss Tyree was getting $250 a week, and D'Orsay, who was the star, got $75 until the close of the season. Now, of course, he has an equable contract by which he gets $250 a week and a share, and he is to be starred next year.

Robert Hilliard earns so much more in vaudeville than in the regular theatres that he plays in it most of the year. His regular salary in dramatic productions is $200, but he is not often engaged in this kind of work.

Jameson Lee Finney, who is approaching stardom, is able to command a large salary as the number of light comedians is small. He receives $275 in New York and $300 on the road.

Charles Dalton always received $400 a week when he played the leading rôle in "The Sign of the Cross," and Charles Frohman engaged him last year to act the title rôle in "Ulysses" at the same price. The production was postponed, and Mr. Frohman asked to be released frm the contract, offering to engage Mr. Dalton the next year. Mr. Dalton refused, continued to draw his salary without acting at all, and when the play was given this year another actor was engaged for the part.

Wilton Lackaye is one of the actors who hold out for a large salary and never act until they get it. Consequently, he acts only with Amelia Bingham, who engages the most expensive companies of any manager, or with J. K. Hackett.

Aubrey Boucicault can always get $300, and Vincent Serrano, who is but little known to fame, happened to be youthful and good looking enough to reach the $200 mark with Elsie de Wolfe's company, although he has spent much unoccupied time since waiting for the same figure. Frank Worthington, in spite of the great disadvantage of his physical appearance, always commands $250, and William Courtleigh, notwithstanding his good looks, has not yet reached the $200 mark.

John Mason is one of the men who received more salary a few years ago than to-day. Now he is to be engaged for $150 a week, and he received less while leading man at Daly's under Daniel Frohman.

Robert Haines, who is still a beginner here, has not advanced beyond $125, but it seems inevitable that he will. His contract with David Belasco expires next spring. He will then go under other management unless he decides to be a star in a play by his wife. In that case the tour will be on his own responsibility.

These figures refer, of course, to only thirty or thirty-five weeks out of the year. But even under those conditions, the popular actors of the stage make their money easily.

FAMOUS JUDGE RETIRING.

Oliver Perry Shiras, Twenty Years on the Federal Bench in the West.

Judge Oliver Perry Shiras of the United States District Court of the northern district of Iowa, a brother of ex-Justice George Shiras of the United States Supreme Court, will leave the bench on Nov. 1, having reached the age limit, 70 years.

During the twenty years since this court was created Judge Shiras has continuously presided over it, and his fame as a jurist has extended beyond the limits of Iowa. It has so happened that he has had to decide several famous cases, which have subsequently passed on appeal to the highest court in the Union. In almost all of these his judgments have been upheld.

As a member of the Court of Appeals for the Eighth United States Circuit Judge Shiras heard the famous case against the Trans-Missouri Freight Association, involving the question whether the Sherman Anti-Trust act applied to railway companies, and, if so, whether combinations between railroad companies for the purpose of maintaining certain freight rates were lawful under the provisions of that act.

The two other members of the court, one of them Judge Thayer, who recently wrote the opinion in the Northern Securities case, held that the written contract entered into by the railway companies was not unlawful, because the rates fixed in it were not shown to be unreasonable. Judge Shiras, dissenting, held that the Sherman act did apply to railway companies, and that it forbade their entering into any arrangement for the purpose of avoiding competition among them.

The Supreme Court supported him and reversed the judgment, though the Judge's own brother voted in the minority against his view.

No Federal Judge in the West has so wide an experience in trying cases in which Indians were interested as Judge Shiras. In a celebrated case in which a Sioux chief, having killed an officer a few days before a peace treaty was made with his tribe by Gen. Miles, was subsequently arrested and tried for murder the Judge made the jury acquit the Indian, holding that the convention made with his tribe by Gen. Miles bound the Government and the courts to forgive the crime.

In a frequently quoted pension case he held that the State laws do not apply in the matter of pensions, a subject wholly controlled by the acts of Congress. The United States Supreme Court upheld this view.

It has been the subject of much comment that so able a jurist remained on the District Court bench. He is one of the few District Judges who occasionally sit as a member of the Circuit Court of Appeals, and it is believed that had he chosen he could have been promoted years ago. He is popular, and the Dubuque Bar Association is preparing a demonstration in his honor on his retirement.

Judge Shiras was a Pittsburg boy. He served in the civil war as Adjutant on the staff of Gen. Herron. One of his former law partners is ex-Speaker Henderson.

As a judge he has the reputation of disposing of more cases in a term than the average District Judge does in two. In private life he is a model of precision. His only painful duty on the bench, he has often said, is to sentence prisoners, no matter how serious their crime may have been.

THEY WHO SUE THE COMPANY.

ANY OLD CLAIM IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR A DAMAGE CASE.

The Woman Who Didn't Know a Corporation Was Buying Her Realty, So Didn't Ask Enough—Disappearing Plaintiffs and Borrowing Kind—Stories About 'Em

The Jerseyman who wants damages from the Middlesex and Somerset Traction Company because the sudden stopping of a car jerked his false teeth into the street is only one of the innumerable quirky-minded people who besiege railway companies with freak claims.

The fighting of these claims is among the more humorous duties of the lawyers of every big railroad corporation, and many a hearty laugh together do the latter have over the latest instance of the damage suitor's unconscious humor.

"Only the other day," an attorney on the fourth floor of the Grand Central station said last week, "a woman brought suit against the New York Central for $10,000 for fraud. We had, through an agent, acquired some of her property for the enlargement of our yards. She based her claim substantially on the fact that if the agent had told her that a rich corporation were buying her property she would have charged a much higher price.

"Then there's an up-State farmer who was driving away from a railroad crossing when a passing train startled his horse. He insists that the sudden movement of the horse, although it didn't unseat him, jarred his physique to the extent of $10,000.

"About the time the Bryan bug got East a lot of Chicago Aldermen, the Hinkey Dink crowd, came to town in one of our parlor cars. 'Long about Fishkill they threw a champagne case out of the window. It connected with the head of a man on the station platform. He sued us for $5,000.

"That case died of its own weight, but among the suits against us now pending is a very queer one. A well known man about town and his sister entered the Grand Central the other day. They had four bags, and the man barricaded the woman in the middle of the station with these, while he went to buy tickets and send a telegram. While he was gone, two strangers came along, picked up the barricades and walked off with them. The woman admits that she made neither objection nor outcry. Yet she is suing us now for $300 for the value of the bags and their contents. Some people sure enough ought to go around with a guardian.

"We have lots of trouble with the shyster lawyers who take on percentage so many of the suits which are brought against us. But they have their own troubles, too. One morning we received notice from an attorney that he was suing us for a brakeman who had been injured in our yards. That afternoon two other notifications came in from two other lawyers that they were suing us for the same brakeman. The next day, seventeen other notifications from seventeen other lawyers were served on us. All the seventeen lawyers represented the same injured brakeman. When trial day came, the various attorneys begged that their cases be adjourned, on the ground that their client (the brakeman) was unable to appear.

"It finally came out that the injured brakeman had borrowed $20 from each of them the day he put his case in their hands and that he had then disappeared.

"A woman easily persuaded some pushing young city lawyers to represent her in a damage suit against us for injuries received in the tunnel accident. She was of the shifty sort, and, losing her sand at the last moment, vamoosed. Her lawyers made vain efforts to find her and, appearing in court, begged for an adjournment. When our detectives produced her immediately afterward and made her tell on the stand what she was, the young legal firm hardly took time to resign from the case before running out of the room.

"Of course you've heard of the woman who brought suit for slander against the Manhattan Elevated Railroad because when she dropped her ticket in the box too late to get the train the guard of the rear car as it passed out put his thumb to his nose and asked: 'Did you ever get left?' Women bring most of these freak suits. A man hasn't half a woman's gall and impetuosity. Most of our baggage claims are made by women.

"In a class by herself is the actress who loses her wardrobe between one-night stands. Then there is the prize animal breeder. No engine ever kills a cow worth less than a hundred dollars. We're in the middle of a suit right now brought by a farmer who says that the Empire State Express decimated at $20 apiece a flock of sheep, and the prize hogs we've run over in the last six months would stock all the pig farms in the State. A country justice of the peace recently brought suit against us for $9 and costs for the loss of three sheep whose pelts were found on our tracks. Of course we didn't have much trouble in proving that a sheep is more likely to be skinned by a tramp than a train. But we had the hardest kind of a time persuading the rustic jury that a spot of engine grease on one of the hides didn't make us accomplices after the fact.

"The man who sues us for a hotel bill because he didn't hear the announcer call out the last train is perennial. But he who manages, as one really did last winter, to spring on the rear platform of the last vestibule car and, after spending the night there freezing, then asks damages for 'contributory negligence,' is unusual.

"Last but not least are the bridal couples. A debonair honeymooner fell out of one of our upper berths last year and broke four ribs. He lost that suit, but while preparing my case I had a talk with the sleeping car's negro porter. When he learned the extent of the claimant's injuries he was very contemptuous.

" 'All dat rumpus ovah jes fo' ribs?' he sniffed. 'I won'er what de gen'lemen 've done ef he'd broke 'em all.'

"Most Judges and juries, being possessed of at least a slight sense of humor," concluded the lawyer, "size up these freak damage suits at their true worth."

The lawyers of the city traction companies, too, have their ludicrous cases to defend. The Interurban Street Railway Company recently won a suit brought by the doughty Major of a New York regiment, who, in rushing from a car the fuse of which had blown out, fell and broke two ribs. The verdict was set aside, however, on the ground that the defendant's lawyer had unduly moved the jury by his description of the shot and shell proof veteran's panic.

Suit for $75,000 was brought against the same railway company not long ago by a Russian, who said that the cords at the back of his knee had been cut by a Broadway car. Detectives found, before the trial, that the man had deliberately "ham-strung" himself in Russia, several years previously, to avoid compulsory service in the army. The company's detectives are kept constantly busy with just such cases. A pretty Greek girl was carried into court on a stretcher recently. She had been a paralytic, she said, ever since being struck by one of the company's cars. When, in cross examination, she was asked to identify a picture of herself rowing her lover, a detective in disguise, about the lake in Central Park, her lawyers threw up the case.

A lawyer defending a city railway company in a $25,000 suit brought by a woman asked her five-year-old son to repeat his testimony. He did in precisely the same words.

"How often have you repeated it before, my boy," asked the lawyer.

"My mother made me say it over every night," was the answer.

A lawyer defending a damage suit, got a laugh for his side recently by telling the story of a pedler knocked down at Dead Man's Curve.

"Are you hurt?" asked the cop, who picked him up.

"I'll have to see my lawyer first," said the pedler.

"Every pedler, according to a street railroad lawyer, has his legal adviser, nowadays; every hospital its swarm of practising sharks, who respond to all its ambulance calls and offer their services to the injured."

THE DECLINE OF DRINKING.

Less and Less Intemperance Among Men and Women.

It rarely happens that the periodical announcement that intemperance is increasing among women comes from a playwright. That is the chief novelty about the recent utterances of Bronson Howard.

As has been said many times, anybody who comes into contact with society women of the day knows that indulgence in liquor has not increased among them, but declined. They have learned that their health and beauty are to be kept only through sanitary living.

Indulgence in liquor is one of the first things that doctors nowadays prohibit. Indeed, most physicians of the younger school are so rabid and uncompromising on that point that the effect of their advice is sometimes lost on patients.

"I can always tell at a glance," said one of the physicians who have many New York women of social importance under their care, "the man or the woman who takes too much alcohol. It produces fat in nine cases out of ten, and fat of a kind that is immediately recognizable. Bloat is the vulgar name for it, and that describes it accurately enough.

"Any woman who drinks to excess is going to show the first effects in that way. And the stout woman is now entirely out of the mode.

"Athletics are so common to the younger generation of women that they have the advantage in retaining their figures over those who cannot indulge in these sports. So the others struggle by prudence in eating and drinking to keep as attractive in figure as their friends.

"They know that massage alone will not do this, nor will exercise by itself keep them down. They must give up fattening things, and women willing to do without bread, sweets and starches are equal to abstaining from liquor. Cocktails, even though they be rather dry, are the most fattening drink a woman can take, and next to that comes sweet champagne.

"Formerly women, and for that matter men, never knew what caused their troubles until after it was too late. But in recent years there has been such a spread of publicity on this subject that the effects of alcohol are now well understood.

"Certain things are going to happen if people indulge in too much drink, and nowadays they know it. Formerly they did not.

"The general decrease in drinking during the past few years has had its effect chiefly on the women, of the kind that Mr. Howard spoke of because they, more than any others, are compelled to guard against the results that liquor causes."

The testimony of one expert at the head of an institute for the treatment of the liquor habit, that the number of his women patients had increased during recent years, has no bearing on the habits of women of fashion. As a matter of fact, there have been, during the past ten years, only three cases in which women that could rightly be placed among New York's smart set have been criticised for drinking too much, whether justly or unjustly it was not in every case possible to tell.

One of them went to a regular hospital for that kind of treatment, and as she remained there the time necessary for a cure it was supposed she was taking one. In former years there was more talk of this kind heard about women well known in society, but for at least a decade only three names have been mentioned in city gossip.

"The increase in drinking," said the head of the institute visited by THE SUN reporter, "seems to be the result in a measure, of our prosperity and the resulting growth of the drinking on all sides. People go to expensive restaurants now and order wine—usually champagne—who would not have thought of drinking such a thing a decade ago. They have more money now and spend some of it in that way.

"Again, women find that they can order drinks in public without causing criticism. It was an unusual thing ten years ago to see two women lunching together order a cocktail. Now they think nothing of it, nor does anybody who sees them.

"Unlike the women of the set Mr. Howard criticised, these women have not always been familiar with the effects of wine and drinking in general. They are much more likely to go beyond the limit than women who have always seen wine about them have had it on their tables, whether they drink it or not, and are familiar with the harm it will do them. Such women are much less likely to go to extremes than those who come to look upon drinking as the accompaniment of every diversion and entertainment."

That men drink less in New York clubs than they did some years ago is a reality that has made intoxicated men in clubs rather a rarity. There are, of course, men in every club who take too much to drink; but they are exceptional.

One reason for this change is the fact that men now frequent clubs in the largest numbers before dinner. The most popular hour in the clubs is between 5 and 6:30, as most men are going afterward to dinner, and they must restrain themselves.

During recent years only one man has been discussed in New York from his habit of becoming intoxicated in public. He became so notorious on that account that he was no longer invited out, and before his death was a confirmed drunkard.

His conduct practically compelled his young wife to retire from society, so great was the disgust he caused. Yet if drunkenness had become so common, he would never have been ostracised in this way.

Dinners in New York now are shorter than they used to be, and simpler, so far as the wines go. The old programme of sherry, Rhine wine, claret, champagne and cordials is a thing of the past. Two wines are the usual number nowadays. Last winter there was a fashion for white wine and champagne that put that combination on almost every table at less formal dinners and in nearly all the restaurants.

The number of courses at a dinner is much smaller than it used to be. These changes have all come because men and women not only eat, but drink, less than they did when a formal dinner was a species of gorge in both respects. Even at these diminished feasts in vogue to-day it is interesting to notice how little women eat and drink. They value their appearance and their health very much more than the satisfaction of eating and drinking.

SALVATIONISTS IN FEUD LAND.

GREAT INVASION OF BREATHITT COUNTY, KY., BEGINS.

Corps of Nine Mounted Officers Have Started on a Tour of the Mountains, With Bibles and Guitars Instead of Rifles—They'll Preach Against Killing.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Sept. 26.—The Salvation Army has invaded the feud country. Nine of its members "mobilized" in this city ten days ago and departed for Breathitt county, Ky., where they are now at work among the mountaineers, striving to bring them to a sense of the crime of blood guiltiness.

The departure of the nine not only marks an innovation in the work of the army, but also the introduction of cavalry in Salvation operations. Col. R. E. Holz of Cleveland, who is in command of active operations in Ohio and the South and has been a member of the army for nineteen years, is at the head of the squad of horsemen. Naturally all of the nine are officers. This is probably a concession to Kentucky prejudice.

The men wore khaki uniforms, trimmed with black. The uniforms were brand new when donned for the trip. This is also a new departure, being the first time these costumes have been worn by Salvation Army soldiers. The clean, natty appearance of the soldiers can hardly be considered a disadvantage to their cause.

The soldiers are all young men in fine physical trim, all good singers and able to play on some kind of musical instrument. Two are cornetists, several are performers on the guitar, and one, Capt. Escott, is an expert manipulator of the concertina. The importance of music in the invasion was estimated in advance.

Horses were engaged at Jackson, Ky., where the soldiers first took to the saddle. A small one horse wagon also was secured to carry the musical instruments, books, and rations for men and horses, the last to be drawn on only in emergency.

The little army received an earnest and enthusiastic send-off at the headquarters here the night before its departure. Salvationists from near and far attended, as did many sympathizers from various circles in life.

Col. Holz said to THE SUN correspondent that while the proposed horseback ride of 300 miles through the mountains was conceded as not embracing the blandishments of a picnic, none of the men feared it in the least.

"We were influenced not a little toward taking this trip by a well-known ex-Confederate officer of Bristol, Tenn., whose name I am not at liberty to give," said the Colonel. "Bristol will probably be the end of the present trip, which will last about three weeks. We will hold daily meetings in the streets and public buildings of the villages, and we will also make house to house visits, the squad separating into twos for that purpose. We hope to arrange for the establishment of permanent posts and also, in time, for schools."

"We go prepared to pay our way if necessary," said Major R. E. Hunter of Cleveland, "although we have all heard much about Kentucky hospitality, and shall not decline it if tendered us. Not one of our party will, of course, carry a weapon."

Capt. Olthoff, the "advance guard" of the troop, returned to this city to-day. He started about a week ahead of the troop and kept well ahead of it all the while, returning here in advance of the time set for the return of the squad. To his post of duty there attached, therefore, more of risk, if the element of danger entered into the undertaking in a degree worth considering at all, than there did to the duties of the other soldiers. Olthoff, who is also young, rugged and now bronzed from his three weeks in the saddle exposed to mountain sun and air, wore the ordinary blue and red Salvation Army uniform on the trip, not the yellow Rough Rider garb.

"I had no trouble to speak of," said he, "although some of the church people of those regions were not inclined to view our mission with favor. I had some pretty vigorous verbal encounters with one or two parsons and other representatives especially of the Primitive or 'Hardshell' Baptists. These people believe that it has been 'foreordained,' long before the foundations of the world were laid, what each and every man, woman and child must do and be in this life and in the next.

"They believe, so they told me, that a person so selected to be saved will be saved under any and all circumstances, and the person who is to be lost will be lost forever just as certainly, no matter what he may do to avert his doom. It is probable that this doctrine blinds some minds to the dark crimes of the feudists.

"The Mormons have been working through the regions, too, but their seed seemed to fall on stony soil. One woman, I remember, said to me that she did not know what kind of a Church I represented, but if it was the Mormon I had best pass right along, as her people had no kind of use for that breed of saints.

"The people did not seem to be familiar with the Salvation Army uniform, and bearded mountaineers, each with a big rifle in hand, eyed me wickedly, as a rule until I explained very fully. A number took me for a detective or Secret Service official of some sort, evidently. On my way back I inquired at a settlement what was the nearest road to Jackson, and was at once taken for a militiaman.

"What's been doin' down to Jackson ag'in?' they eagerly inquired.

"The people are hospitable enough, but often acknowledged that they couldn't afford to spare me a feed for myself or horse. I have no doubt they told the truth. There is much real poverty and distress up in those mountains. Hot baking powder biscuits, pork and corn three times a day, were the best to be had usually. Pork doesn't agree with me, so I did not taste it, but the appearance of the pigs running about everywhere was not at all satisfying to the eye. I do not believe that those people can even pretend to know their own from their neighbors' hogs in the scrambling herds of rooters on every hand. The sleeping accommodations are primitive, with feather beds the closest approach to luxury.

"Yes, I saw real moonshine stills often, but nobody alluded to them, of course, or wanted me to drink the stuff. I hired horses for myself and the comrades to follow at Jackson for $1 a day each. I had no trouble in finding enough steeds, because everybody rides horseback in that region. I engaged ten good saddle horses at a livery stable in Jackson and the proprietor seemed to have at least as many more.

"My duties embraced arranging for the entertainment of the comrades who were coming and securing a building in which to hold the meetings. I arranged with a man in Hargis's store in Jackson who was called 'Judge,' for the use of the court house. This 'Judge' treated me nicely and did not ask for any pay. He seemed to understand all about our trip, asking for no explanations.

"Whenever, for any reason, I was unable to secure shelter for our band's meetings, I left word to that effect. As our men are not averse to holding their services in the street without shelter, I was not troubled when unable to arrange for an indoor meeting place."